State of California
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

M e m o r a n d u m

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: August 17-18, 2005

Reference No.: 2.2b.
Action Item

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Ref: **SUMMARY – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, ROUTE 55 IN ORANGE COUNTY – MODIFY OVERCROSSING AND ADD HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE DROP LANES IN SANTA ANA AND IRVINE**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at the August 2005 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 12-Ora-55, PM R6.97/R8.35. Modify an overcrossing and add High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) drop ramps in Santa Ana and Irvine in Orange County.

PROGRAMMING:

This project is being funded by the Measure M Regional Improvement Program, Measure M Growth Management Area Program, local dollars from the Cities of Santa Ana and Irvine, and other local sources. The Department of Transportation (Department) is providing oversight. The Department will request the Commission's approval for a New Public Road Connection for the HOV drop ramps at a subsequent Commission meeting. The total estimated project cost, escalated to the construction year, is $92.6 million. The project is being divided into two construction phases: Phase I will be the overcrossing, and Phase II will be the HOV drop ramps. Phase 1 is scheduled to begin construction in Fiscal Year 2008-09.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

- Alternative 1 – No Action.
- Alternative 2 – Construct an overcrossing, construct HOV drop ramps, spot-widen Alton Avenue to secondary arterial standards.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Parking
- Traffic
- Visual quality
- Noise
- Hazardous materials
- Biology
- Economic resources
- Business displacements

The City of Santa Ana, as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), determined that an Environmental Impact Report is the appropriate CEQA document to prepare for this project.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Design structure with hinge restrainers, piles, and reinforced columns and embankments.
- Protect against erosion of fill near the flood control channel. Design modifications of flood control channel to convey 100-year discharges.
- Design drainage to comply with local and state design standards. Meet requirements of Countywide Drainage Area Management Plan.
- Implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and non-stormwater best management practices (BMPs)
- Implement permanent erosion controls such as hydroseeding, landscaping and riprap protection.
- Perform Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for hazardous materials on acquired properties. Perform Phase II site investigations where appropriate.
- Comply with regulations addressing hazardous materials.
- Develop Health and Safety Plan and Construction Contingency Plan.
- Implement measures to minimize dust during construction.
- Implement noise mitigation measures to minimize temporary construction noise.
- Remove invasive weeds from project area. Minimize the spread of invasive weed seeds.
- Provide assistance to help displaced businesses to relocate in the area.
- Restripe to add left and right turn lanes to increase capacity at intersections that will experience more congestion as a result of the project.
- Maintain access during business and delivery hours to businesses that are not being displaced.
- Revegetate and landscape setback areas. Preserve existing landscaping where feasible.

Attachment

ALTON AVENUE OVERCROSSING AT SR-55	Regional Map	**FIGURE 1.2-1**